

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /065 W

-----059538 232241Z /12

R 231410Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1552

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

OC/JCS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, FI, SU

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARTICLE DISCUSSES BROWN VISIT AND CRITICIZES

FINNISH CINC

REF: (A) HELSINKI 1264 (NOTAL); HELSINKI A-78 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO FINNISH PRESS, SOVIET WEEKLY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLE WHICH COMBINES COMMENT ON RECENT VISIT TO GENERAL BROWN TO HELSINKI (REF A) WITH SHARP CITICISM OF JUNE 4 ARMED FORCES DAY SPEECH OF FINNISH CINC, GENERAL SUTELA (REF B). ARTICLE, UNDER HEADLINE "A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE," REPORTEDLY MENTIONS GENERAL BROWN'S VIETNAM RECORD, SAYS BROWN HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST DETENTE, AND ASKS WHETHER HIS INTEREST IN LAPLAND MIGHT NOT BE RELATED TO INCREASE OF NATO OPERATIONS IN NORTH EUROPE, THEN GOES ON TO SAY THAT BROWN'S APPEARANCE IN FINLAND WAS PRECEDED BY A "RATHER CURIOUS EVENT",
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THE SUTELA SPEECH.

2. AS REPORTED IN LEADING HELSINGIN SANOMAT, SOVIET ARTICLE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF SUTELA REMARKS PRAISING MANNERHEIM AND FINNISH JAEGER IN CONNECTION WITH FINNISH INDEPENDENCE (REF B). ARTICLE REPORTEDLY ACCUSES SUTELA, WHOM IT IDENTIFIES AS BROWN'S HOST BUT NOT EXPLICITLY AS FINNISH

CINC, OF IGNORING FCMA AND FAILING TO MENTION THAT FINNISH INDEPENDENCE WAS "RESULT OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION". IT NOTES THAT FINNISH "PROGRESSIVE" (I.E. COMMUNIST) PRESS CALLED THIS NOT MERE DISTORTION OF HISTORY BUT AN OPEN RIGHTIST DEMONSTRATION IN CONFLICT WITH INTERESTS OF FINNISH PEOPLE AND CONCLUDES THAT IT WAS STRANGE THIS COINCIDED WITH VISIT OF GENERAL BROWN.

3. HELSINGIN SANOMAT OBSERVES THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME IN MEMORY THAT SOVIETS HAVE CRITICIZED A TOP FINNISH MILITARY LEADER STILL ON ACTIVE DUTY. PAPER ALSO NOTES THAT SUTELA HAS MADE SEVERAL VISITS TO USSR AS CINC, MOST RECENTLY LAST SEPTEMBER, AND THAT TASS HAD EARLIER CRITICIZED BROWN VISIT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IN NO WAY LINKED, BROWN VISIT AND SUTELA SPEECH BOTH REPRESENT FINNISH MILITARY'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN NONALIGNED STANCE AND IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH ACHIEVEMENT AND PROTECTION OF FINNISH INDEPENDENCE. BROWN VISIT AND (ALMOST CERTAINLY) SUTELA SPEECH CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH TOP POLITICAL LEADER

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SHIP. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY MOSCOW'S COMMENTS ON SOVIET REACTION TO THESE EVENTS REPRESENTED BY LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ARTICLE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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